

THE ALI

VOL. 1.

MERIDEN, KAN., SAT.

ECONOMIC STUDIES.

Farmer Elder Ironically Protests that There is no Beef or Hog Combine.

From the Live Stock Indicator of June 20.

By some oversight of the management of the Kansas City Times, the testimony of witnesses taken before the Inter-State Commerce Commission, on May 31, was printed in that paper of June 1, under the head of "Combine Laid Bare." It runs as follows:

Mr. Haightly's afternoon testimony was remarkably interesting and was ably supplemented by the revelations made by Mr. F. B. Foster, manager of John Morrell & Co.'s packing house at Ottumwa, Ia. In the morning Mr. Haightly was the first witness placed upon the stand, and in the cross-examination Mr. Cummings attempted to draw out of him the details of the Chicago trust agreement to keep down the price of hogs and keep up the price of pork by closing some of the packing houses and thus regulating the supply. Mr. Haightly stated that he had signed such an agreement with eighteen others in 1886, but he in existence though he did not know it was, and he believed no one had been made of it. He refused to give the names of the signers, as the newspapers would make over the agreement and charge the signers as trust monopolists. Judge Cooley said the question of competent evidence regarding the latter of public concern.

"We cannot force you to answer it," he added, "but it will not help your cause to refuse. We do not control the newspapers and can press shut out the reporters."

Distr.

The witness said he had willing to submit the list to the commission on the condition that it should not be made public, but the commission would not commit itself. The witness asked for and was granted a few hours to consider the matter. He was again brought into the trial shortly before 4 o'clock p.m., when the first question Mr. Cummings proposed to him was:

"Who signed the Chicago agreement of 1886?"

"I will hand that to the commission under protest," said Mr. Haightly, as he passed a sealed paper over to Judge Cooley, advised the Judge quietly and over his tuck in his pocket. He said to a Times reporter later that the list would not be made public for the present.

"Where is the agreement?" asked Mr. Cummings.

"It is not in my hands, but in any of the signers."

"What parties did not sign?"

"I cannot tell without going to my hotel. I will submit a list the non-

signers to the commission later, give them a better paper

"How do you know none are for which they subscribed? They should be refunded to

"Because I have asked those after this time I will have every reason to believe their honor to pay us for our neither the agreement nor a corrafter. Hoping that this ex- it is in the hands of one of them will be satisfactory to all

ers." "Then you do not know who I have not the remotest idea it is. By the way, I desire to my testimony of this morning at home when the agree- signed."

"In reply to further question witness testified that it was scale arrangement by th

which each packing house to do a certain percentage

It each week paid a bonus

hog killed over its quota a

a bonus of so much per number less than its quota,

killed. He himself had

under it for nine or ten

had killed none since but

ing a bonus right along

He had quit killing in A

The amount paid for

depending upon the

The bonus had avera

per hog on the total

paid out to those who

business. It cost the

an average of 3.6

on the total amount k

frequently ran under

received bonuses. T

sliding arrangement

more a house killed in excess of its

quota the less it paid per hog. Mr.

Haightly refused to state how much in all he had thus far received for remaining out of business, but he said that about \$300,000 has been paid out

in the aggregate as bonuses since the

agreement went into effect, November 1, 1886. It expires November 1, 1889.

When Mr. Haightly left the stand Mr. Cummings asked that Mr. F. B. Foster, manager of John Morrell & Co.'s packing house at Ottumwa, be called. Mr. Foster gave his statement in a straightforward story that showed pretty clearly that the Chicago combine is responsible for the decline in the packing business of that city which the Chicago Board of Trade complains of. He had seen the agreement which had been presented to his house in Chicago for signature. There had been a previous agreement to which Morrell & Co. had been a party, but it had lapsed in about six months and the present one was gotten up. They were not a party to the present pool, but the

agreement had been presented to them and pressure brought to bear to bring them into the pool. By that terms each

house was rated to do a certain percentage of the business. This rating

was based partially on the capacity of

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